

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set out in the following listing of the claims. This listing replaces and supersedes all prior claim listings.

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image generating apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said ~~updating~~ determination unit detects when said range enters a predetermined area set in advance in an original image and changes the size of said range.

11. (Currently Amended) An image generating apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said predetermined area is set depending on a ~~density~~ the existence of objects a user should pay attention to.

12. (Currently Amended) An image generating apparatus according to Claim ~~[[8]]~~ 22, wherein when ~~said range is successively shifted in the same direction~~ the instruction defines a direction identical with that defined by the previous instruction, said ~~updating~~ determination unit increments the count and changes the size of said range in accordance with ~~a degree of succession~~ the incremented count value.

13-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) An image generating apparatus comprising:

an input unit inputting an instruction about a shift of a range of an image to be displayed on a screen;

a determination unit for determining, when said range is successively shifted, a predetermined parameter value related to an image to be displayed based on an altitude of virtual point of view according to a movement speed in a coordinate system in an instructed direction;

an obtaining unit for identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined by the determination unit, and for obtaining the plurality of original images identified; and

an image generating unit for performing a predetermined converting process upon the plurality of original images so that the parameter values of the plurality of original images match the parameter value determined by the determination unit, and for outputting a final image obtained by combining the plurality of original images so that their corresponding areas are made to overlap, wherein:

when the movement speed in the coordinate system in the instructed direction changes, the determination unit updates the parameter value so that an on-screen movement speed of an image currently displayed on the screen is maintained; and

the image generating unit performs a processing so that the parameter value of the final image matches the parameter value updated in the determination unit.

23. (New) An image generating method comprising:

inputting an instruction about a shift of a range of an image to be displayed on a screen;

determining, when said range is successively shifted, a predetermined parameter value related to an image to be displayed based on an altitude of virtual point of view according to a movement speed in a coordinate system in an instructed direction;

identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined by the determining, and obtaining the plurality of original images identified; and

performing a predetermined converting process upon the plurality of original images so that the parameter values of the plurality of original images match the parameter value determined by the determining, and outputting a final image obtained by combining the plurality of original images so that their corresponding areas are made to overlap, wherein:

when the movement speed in the coordinate system in the instructed direction changes, the determining updates the parameter value so that an on-screen movement speed of an image currently displayed on the screen is maintained; and

the performing matches the parameter value of the final image to the parameter value updated in the determining.

24. (New) A program embodied on a computer readable medium to control a processor to implement the method of:

inputting an instruction about a shift of a range of an image to be displayed on a screen; and

determining, when said range is successively shifted, a predetermined parameter value related to an image to be displayed based on an altitude of virtual point of view according to a movement speed in a coordinate system in an instructed direction;

identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined by the determining, and obtaining the plurality of original images identified; and

performing a predetermined converting process upon the plurality of original images so that the parameter values of the plurality of original images match the parameter value determined by the determining, and outputting a final image obtained by combining the plurality of original images so that their corresponding areas are made to overlap, wherein:

when the movement speed in the coordinate system in the instructed direction changes, the determining updates the parameter value so that an on-screen movement speed of an image currently displayed on the screen is maintained; and

the performing matches a processing so that the parameter value of the final image to the parameter value updated in the determining.

25. (New) A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

inputting an instruction about a shift of a range of an image to be displayed on a screen;

determining, when said range is successively shifted, a predetermined parameter value related to an image to be displayed based on an altitude of virtual point of view according to a movement speed in a coordinate system in an instructed direction;

identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined by the determining, and obtaining the plurality of original images identified; and

performing a predetermined converting process upon the plurality of original images so that the parameter values of the plurality of original images match the parameter value determined by the determining, and outputting a final image obtained by combining the plurality of original images so that their corresponding areas are made to overlap, wherein:

when the movement speed in the coordinate system in the instructed direction changes, the determining updates the parameter value so that an on-screen movement speed of an image currently displayed on the screen is maintained; and

the performing matches the parameter value of the final image to the parameter value updated in the determining.